



Community-led Needs Analyses: Current Approaches and Practice in Europe

ECFI THEMATIC MEETING

VITAL SIGNS - CANADA

COMMUNITY PULSE BUCHAREST

VITAL SIGNS – U.K.

COMUNITA' VITALI –
NORTH MILAN GREATER
AREA

OXFORDSHIRE UNCOVERED

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE &
DATA

HOW DO WE LIVE IN
BANSKA BYSTRICA?

VITAL SIGNS & SDGs

HAMBURG, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2018



WHY do we need community-led needs analysis?

Community foundations are challenged to be able to read an often very fluid local situation or complex issues that are important for the well-being of the communities they serve. The amount and complexity of information and data available nowadays is increasing and citizens are often left out of expert conversations on important matters (with local impacts/consequences?).

Harvesting community knowledge on the current needs of a community through a variety of approaches (most known is the Vital Signs methodology, but there are also other approaches) allows community foundations to act strategically and effectively to make a difference over the long term, while empowering the community to articulate and monitor how it is doing in various dimensions of its well-being.

Additionally, community foundations are uniquely positioned to stimulate, engage and facilitate public conversations of community stakeholders from the public sector, academia, civic groups and business around the key social trends and community needs.



WHAT is the Vital Signs method and approach?

Vital Signs is a program led by community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada that leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of communities and support action towards improving our collective quality of life.

<http://communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns/>

Vital Signs aims to inspire civic engagement and provide focus for public debate in our communities and around the world. Vital Signs reports and Vital Conversations are used by residents, businesses, community organizations, universities, and government leaders to take action and put resources where they will have the greatest impact. First started by Toronto Foundation in 2001, Vital Signs is now a global program that has engaged more than 85 communities in Canada and around the world to mobilize the power of community knowledge for greater local impact. In Europe the Vital Signs method has been used among almost two dozens of U.K. community foundations. In Germany, it was explored with a group of interested community foundations and Hamburg Community Foundation will be the first one to implement Vital Signs. Other European countries have either adopted the Vital Signs approach or experimented with other types of community-led needs assessments. In Romania, the Bucharest CF implements a Community Pulse program, in Slovakia Banska Bystrica CF runs a „How do we live in Banska Bystrica“ project.

HOSTS: Hamburg BürgerStiftung in partnership with European Community Foundation Initiative – ECFI and Körber Stiftung.

WHEN & WHERE:

11-12 September 2018, in Hamburg (Germany)

REGISTRATION deadline: 07.08.18

This Thematic Meeting aims to explore the topic of community-led needs analyses in the context of European communities and European community foundations.

The goal of the meeting is to strengthen the capacities of CFs to understand and be better equipped to address broader issues.

The event will focus on sharing experiences from practice (what different CFs have done, how they assess it now, lessons learned from the process) and creating space to capture current knowledge on community-led needs assessments and distill learning based on this experience.



The meeting will allow for exchange of practices and generate learning (peer learning) that will be made available to the CF field in Europe. With this aim in mind, an important element of the meeting will be to capture the conversations, collect information on the resources used, curate them and make them available on-line also for a broader CF audience in Europe (and beyond).

The event will target various groups of people:

- Staff/Boards of community foundations in Europe that have implemented community-led needs assessments in their communities and are ready to share their lessons learned and learn from their peers
- Community foundation practitioners who are in the process of launching community-led needs assessment processes and are interested in learning from more experienced peers
- Experts, researchers and community facilitators who have been engaged in methodology development or providing other support to these approaches.
- We propose a co-designed learning experience that puts more practitioners together towards creating models that can be used and adapted by various communities.

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